REMARKS

I. Overview

These remarks are set forth in response to the Final Office Action of August 21, 2007 (Final Office Action). Presently, claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-12, and 14-18 are pending in the Patent Application. Claims 3, 10, and 13 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 9, and 11 are independent in nature. In the Final Office Action, claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In response, *although Applicants disagree with the rejections, Applicants have amended the claims in an effort to even more clearly define the Applicant's invention and to facilitate expeditious prosecution. No new matter has been introduced. The support for the amendment may be found, for example, in paragraph [0018] of the specification.*

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 9, and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0018786 by Lortz in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,499,031 to Hopmann; claims 3 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lortz

in view of Hopmann and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,880,005 to Bell et al. (Bell); claims 4-7 and 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lortz in view of Hopmann and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0014644 by Burns et al. (Burns); and claims 8 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lortz in view of Hopmann and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,930,479 to Hall et al. (Hall); and claim 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lortz in view of Hopmann and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083331 by Krumel. In this regard, it is noted that both 102 and 103 rejections require a finding that the prior art included each element claimed.

Amended claim 1 recites a method for autonomically managing administration of interdependent components in a computing network. For the convenience of the Examiner, amended claim 1 is reproduced herein as follows:

> 1. A method for autonomically managing administration of interdependent components in a computing network, the method comprising the steps of:
>
> receiving a request to perform an administrative task directed to a component within the computing network;
>
> retrieving an administration policy comprising a set of rules defining requisite state of related interdependent components and environment required to perform said administrative task;

further retrieving state data for the related interdependent components and environment;

applying said retrieved policy to said retrieved state data; and,

permitting said administrative task only if said retrieved state data satisfies said set of rules in said retrieved policy.

Integral to claim 1 (and also to claims 9 and 11) is retrieving of an administration policy comprising a set of rules defining requisite state of related interdependent components and environment required to perform the administrative task, the further retrieving of state data for the related interdependent components and environment, the applying of the retrieved policy to the retrieved state data, and the permission of the administrative task only if the retrieved state data satisfies the set of rules in the retrieved policy. Applicants submit that at least these limitations are not disclosed by any of the cited references or any combination thereof.

In support of this assertion, Applicants observe that Lortz discloses a resource policy management method which includes receiving policy data associated with a resource from a resource owner over a network, authenticating the resource owner to determine whether to accept the received policy data, and storing the received policy data in a centralized data structure if the resource owner is authenticated.

Clearly, the subject matter of Lortz, which concerns the management of centralized policy data for authentication and access control, has nothing to do with the subject matter of the Applicants' claimed invention, which concerns autonomic system administration of interdependent components in a computing network. In the Applicants' claimed invention, the operation of one component depends on the state of other related components (application components, software resources including application servers and databases relied upon by one or more of the application components, and hardware resources including physical servers, communications bandwidth, disk storage and the like) and the environment (system resources such as CPU utilization). When a request to perform an administrative task directed to a component within the computing network is received, the system will retrieve the relevant policy (which defines requisite state of related components and environment required to perform the administrative task) and the relevant state data (the state of related components and environment) and compare the state data with the policy to determine if the request will be permitted. For example, in the event that a rule permits a database shutdown only once the database has undertaken an incremental backup procedure, a request to shutdown the database will not be permitted until the backup procedure had occurred.

The other cited references do not cure the deficiencies of Lortz. Accordingly, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, individually or in any combination, teaches each element claimed in independent claims 1, 9, and 11. Claims 1, 9, and 11 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the cited art. Dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well at least due to their dependency on the patentable independent claims.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections owing to the amendments and foregoing remarks. The Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 12, 2011

/Steven M. Greenberg/

Steven M. Greenberg
Reg. No.: 44,725
Customer No. 46320